UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/50/L.5
13 October 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 10

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

United States of America: draft resolution

Modalities for documentation

The General Assembly,

Having considered the information presented by the representative of the Secretary-General to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly in October 1995 on the costs and waste associated with the increasing volume of documentation,

Recognizing that members of the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies contribute directly to this volume of documentation through their requests for reports and that they can reduce the costs and waste associated with the production of United Nations documents through increased restraint in making such requests,

Noting that action taken in 1994 by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees introducing more efficient reporting methods and procedures of the type called for in the present resolution resulted in a 30 per cent decrease in paper work for its 1995 session, producing an estimated annual savings of 264,000 United States dollars,

Noting also that actions taken by the Committee on Conferences, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the First Committee of the General Assembly have resulted in lower documentation costs,

1. Decides:

(a) That documents originating in the Secretariat for submission to the General Assembly or its subsidiary bodies should not exceed sixteen pages in length, except when the Secretary-General certifies that a document represents a special case, such as reports dealing with human rights violations and others

warranting reporting at greater length, or a non-recurrent comprehensive report on an issue not routinely addressed, and that the production of addenda to documents should be strictly limited to that which is requested in the legislative mandate;

(b) That documents originating in functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies should not exceed twenty-four pages in length;

(c) That reports should not include descriptions of the history of the subject that are contained in other documents, but rather make reference to those other documents, and should not, in general, include a narrative of substantive discussions;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation is available in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents, in each of the six official languages of the United Nations;

3. Requests the President of the General Assembly:

(a) To ask all Chairmen of the Main Committees of the Assembly to encourage all members to exercise restraint in making proposals containing requests for new reports and to consider biennializing or triennializing resolutions that require production of reports;

(b) To encourage all Main Committees to become aware of changes instituted recently by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Committee on Contributions and the First Committee of the General Assembly with regard to reducing documentation costs;

4. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To present oral, rather than written, reports where appropriate, in particular in the case of progress reports;

(b) To submit consolidated reports on related topics under a single item or sub-item;

(c) To provide an oral estimate of the cost of any document or report requested by Member States when an intergovernmental body adopts a resolution containing such a request;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to take steps to promote expanded use by Member States of optical disk equipment in order to reduce copying and distribution costs;

6. Endorses the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the Joint Inspection Unit conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the publications activity of agencies of the United

Nations system, including, inter alia, an analysis of the extent to which publications are used by Member States and the cost effectiveness with which publications are produced;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to present to it at its fifty-first session an oral report on the cost savings resulting from these measures.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/50/L.6
17 October 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH AND SPANISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 156

MULTILINGUALISM

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Gabon, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zaire: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2 (I) of 1 February 1946, 2241 B (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2292 (XXII) of 8 December 1967, 2359 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2479 (XXIII) and 2480 B (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, 3189 (XXVIII), 3190 (XXVIII) and 3191 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 and 43/224 D of 21 December 1988,

Recalling also, on the occasion of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations, that the universality of the United Nations and its corollary, multilingualism, entail for each State Member of the Organization, irrespective of the official language in which it expresses itself, the right and the duty to make itself understood and to understand others,

Stressing the need for strict observance of the resolutions and rules establishing language arrangements for the different bodies and organs of the United Nations,

Recalling that Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are both official and working languages of the General Assembly and its committees and subcommittees 1/ and of the Security Council 2/ and that English and French are the working languages of the Secretariat, 3/

Regretting that unequal use is made of the different official languages and of the working languages of the Secretariat in the United Nations, and desiring that persons recruited by the Organization should have a command of and use at least one of the six official languages in addition to one working language of the Secretariat,

Considering that the translation and interpretation budgets of United Nations bodies should be commensurate with the needs and should not be subject to budgetary constraints, as noted in resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987,

Noting that the principle of equality of the official languages is being called into question with increasing frequency by the holding of so-called "low-cost" informal meetings,

Emphasizing the need for the Organization to continue to promote the learning of all the official languages and the working languages of the Secretariat by members of missions accredited to the Organization and by Secretariat staff,

Emphasizing also the importance of providing access for all Governments and all sectors of civil society to the Organization's documentation, archives and data banks in all the official languages,

1. Invites Member States and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the strict implementation of the resolutions establishing language arrangements for both the official languages and the working languages of the Secretariat;

2. Recalls that the Secretariat is required, in its relations with Member States, to use the official or working language requested by those States;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that personnel recruited by the different bodies of the Organization have a command of and use at least one of the six official languages in addition to one working language of the Secretariat;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure, in particular in the recruitment and promotion of Secretariat staff, equality of the working languages of the Secretariat and of their use within the Organization;

1/ Rule 51 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

2/ Rule 41 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

3/ Resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946.

5. Stresses the need to ensure, in particular through the training and recruitment of specialists, that the necessary resources are available to guarantee the proper and timely translation of documents into the different official and working languages of the United Nations;

6. Recalls the need to ensure the simultaneous distribution of such documents in the official languages of the Organization;

7. Stresses the need to ensure adequate human and financial resources for maintaining the teaching, at all levels, of the official languages and the working languages of the Secretariat;

8. Stresses also the importance of ensuring the availability of adequate data banks and publications in the different official languages in the libraries and documentation centres of the various bodies;

9. Urges the delegations of Member States and the Secretariat to endeavour to avoid holding informal meetings without interpretation;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report at its fifty-second session on the implementation of this resolution and on the use of the official languages of the United Nations and the working languages of the Secretariat.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/50/L.6/Rev.1
30 October 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH AND SPANISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 156

MULTILINGUALISM

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zaire: revised draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2 (I) of 1 February 1946, 2241 B (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2292 (XXII) of 8 December 1967, 2359 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2479 (XXIII) and 2480 B (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, 3189 (XXVIII), 3190 (XXVIII) and 3191 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 and 43/224 D of 21 December 1988,

Recalling also, on the occasion of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations, that the universality of the United Nations and its corollary, multilingualism, entail for each State Member of the Organization, irrespective of the official language in which it expresses itself, the right and the duty to make itself understood and to understand others,

Stressing the need for strict observance of the resolutions and rules establishing language arrangements for the different bodies and organs of the United Nations,

Recalling that Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are both official and working languages of the General Assembly and its committees and subcommittees 1/ and of the Security Council 2/ and that English and French are the working languages of the Secretariat, 3/

Regretting that unequal use is made of the different official languages and of the working languages of the Secretariat in the United Nations, and desiring that persons recruited by the Organization should have a command of and use at least one of the six official languages in addition to one working language of the Secretariat,

Considering that the translation and interpretation budgets of United Nations bodies should be commensurate with the needs and should not be subject to budgetary constraints, as noted in resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987,

Noting that the principle of equality of the official languages is being called into question with increasing frequency by the holding of so-called "low-cost" informal meetings,

Emphasizing the need for the Organization to continue to promote the learning of all the official languages and the working languages of the Secretariat by members of missions accredited to the Organization and by Secretariat staff,

Emphasizing also the importance of providing access for all Governments and all sectors of civil society to the Organization's documentation, archives and data banks in all the official languages,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the strict implementation of the resolutions establishing language arrangements for both the official languages and the working languages of the Secretariat, invites Member States and to ensure that likewise;

2. Recalls that the Secretariat is required, in its relations with Member States, to use the official or working language requested by those States;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, upon recruitment, personnel recruited by the different bodies of the Organization have a command of and use at least one of the working languages of the Secretariat or one of the working languages of another body of the Organization, in the case of staff members who are to work for that body and whose tenure of appointment does not exceed two years; also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the use of another of the six official languages is duly encouraged and taken into account, particularly when promotions and incremental steps are under consideration, in order to ensure the linguistic balance of the Organization;

1/ Rule 51 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

2/ Rule 41 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

3/ Resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946.

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure, in particular in the recruitment and promotion of Secretariat staff, equality of the working languages of the Secretariat and of their use within the Organization;

5. Stresses the need to ensure, in particular through the training and recruitment of specialists, that the necessary resources are available to guarantee the proper and timely translation of documents into the different official and working languages of the United Nations;

6. Recalls the need to ensure the simultaneous distribution of such documents in the official languages of the Organization;

7. Stresses the need to ensure adequate human and financial resources for maintaining the teaching, at all levels, of the official languages and the working languages of the Secretariat;

8. Stresses also the importance of ensuring the availability of adequate data banks and publications in the different official languages in the libraries and documentation centres of the various bodies;

9. Urges the delegations of Member States and the Secretariat to endeavour to avoid holding informal meetings without interpretation;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report at its fifty-second session on the implementation of this resolution and on the use of the official languages of the United Nations and the working languages of the Secretariat.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/50/L.6/Rev.1*
1 November 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH AND SPANISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 156

MULTILINGUALISM

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zaire: revised draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2 (I) of 1 February 1946, 2241 B (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2292 (XXII) of 8 December 1967, 2359 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2479 (XXIII) and 2480 B (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, 3189 (XXVIII), 3190 (XXVIII) and 3191 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 and 43/224 D of 21 December 1988,

Recalling also, on the occasion of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations, that the universality of the United Nations and its corollary, multilingualism, entail for each State Member of the Organization, irrespective of the official language in which it expresses itself, the right and the duty to make itself understood and to understand others,

---

* Reissued for technical reasons.

95-33149 (E) 301095 011195 011195

/...

Stressing the need for strict observance of the resolutions and rules establishing language arrangements for the different bodies and organs of the United Nations,

Recalling that Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are both official and working languages of the General Assembly and its committees and subcommittees 1/ and of the Security Council 2/ and that English and French are the working languages of the Secretariat, 3/

Regretting that unequal use is made of the different official languages and of the working languages of the Secretariat in the United Nations, and desiring that persons recruited by the Organization should have a command of and use at least one of the six official languages in addition to one working language of the Secretariat,

Considering that the translation and interpretation budgets of United Nations bodies should be commensurate with the needs and should not be subject to budgetary constraints, as noted in resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987,

Noting that the principle of equality of the official languages is being called into question with increasing frequency by the holding of so-called "low-cost" informal meetings,

Emphasizing the need for the Organization to continue to promote the learning of all the official languages and the working languages of the Secretariat by members of missions accredited to the Organization and by Secretariat staff,

Emphasizing also the importance of providing access for all Governments and all sectors of civil society to the Organization's documentation, archives and data banks in all the official languages,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the strict implementation of the resolutions establishing language arrangements for both the official languages and the working languages of the Secretariat, and invites Member States to do likewise;

2. Recalls that the Secretariat is required, in its relations with Member States, to use the official or working language requested by those States;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, upon recruitment, personnel recruited by the different bodies of the Organization have a command of and use at least one of the working languages of the Secretariat or one of the working languages of another body of the Organization, in the case of staff members who are to work for that body and whose tenure of appointment does not

---

1/ Rule 51 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

2/ Rule 41 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

3/ Resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946.

exceed two years; also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the use of another of the six official languages is duly encouraged and taken into account, particularly when promotions and incremental steps are under consideration, in order to ensure linguistic balance within the Organization;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure, in particular in the recruitment and promotion of Secretariat staff, equality of the working languages of the Secretariat and of their use within the Organization;

5. Stresses the need to ensure, in particular through the training and recruitment of specialists, that the necessary resources are available to guarantee the proper and timely translation of documents into the different official and working languages of the United Nations;

6. Recalls the need to ensure the simultaneous distribution of such documents in the official languages of the Organization;

7. Stresses the need to ensure adequate human and financial resources for maintaining the teaching, at all levels, of the official languages and the working languages of the Secretariat;

8. Stresses also the importance of ensuring the availability of adequate data banks and publications in the different official languages in the libraries and documentation centres of the various bodies;

9. Urges the delegations of Member States and the Secretariat to endeavour to avoid holding informal meetings without interpretation;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report at its fifty-second session on the implementation of this resolution and on the use of the official languages of the United Nations and the working languages of the Secretariat.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/50/L.6/Rev.1/Add.1
2 November 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH AND SPANISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 156

MULTILINGUALISM

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zaire: revised draft resolution

Addendum

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the revised draft resolution:

Afghanistan, Cape Verde, China, Kazakstan and Lao People's Democratic Republic

---

95-33576 (E) 031195 031195 041195